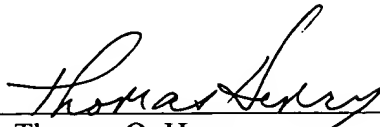


**REMARKS**

Consideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS

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16  
1.

A method of obtaining a solution of calcium ions from lime, comprising

(i) treating the lime with an aqueous solution of a polyhydroxy compound of the formula  $\text{HOCH}_2(\text{CHOH})_n\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$  in which  $n$  is 1 to 6; and

(ii) optionally separating insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (i).

17  
2.A method according to claim <sup>16</sup>1, wherein the lime is carbide lime.18  
3.A method according to claim <sup>17</sup>2 wherein insoluble impurities are separated from the solution resulting from (i).19  
4.A method according to claim <sup>16</sup>1, wherein the lime is a product of the calcining of limestone or dolomite.20  
5.A method as claimed in any one of claims <sup>16</sup>1 to 4, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is glycerol.21  
6.A method according to any one of claims <sup>16</sup>1 to 4, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, threitol or erythritol.22  
7.A method according to claim <sup>21</sup>6 wherein the polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol.23  
8.A method as claimed in any one of claims <sup>16</sup>1 to 7, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as 10%-80% by weight solution in water.24  
9.A method as claimed in claim <sup>21</sup>6 or 7, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as a 10% to 60% by weight solution.

<sup>25</sup>  
~~10.~~ A method as claimed in claim <sup>20</sup>5, wherein the glycerol is employed as a 60% to 80% by weight solution in water.

<sup>24</sup>  
~~11.~~ A method as claimed in claim <sup>16</sup>8, wherein the amount of lime is such as to provide 3-12 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the aqueous solution of the polyhydroxy compound.

<sup>27</sup>  
~~12.~~ A method as claimed in any one of claims <sup>16</sup>1 to 11 effected at a temperature of 5°C-60°C.

<sup>28</sup>  
~~13.~~ A method of producing a calcium containing product comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a solution of calcium ions according to the procedure of any one of claims 1 to 12; and

(b) adding to the solution from (a) a precipitating agent which causes precipitation of the desired calcium containing product.

<sup>29</sup>  
~~14.~~ A method as claimed in claim <sup>28</sup>13, wherein the precipitating agent is carbon dioxide and the product obtained is precipitated calcium carbonate.

<sup>30</sup>  
~~15.~~ A method of producing precipitated calcium carbonate from carbide lime comprising:

(a) treating the carbide lime with an aqueous solution of sorbitol to extract calcium from the carbide lime;

(b) separating the insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (a); and

(c) treating the solution resulting from (b) with carbon dioxide.